Price/Warner Conference Center
Art in Private Development Fact Sheet

City of Tempe
Cultural Services
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Photo: Craig Smith

Artwork
Abacus

Development
Price/Warner Conference Center

Address
2039 E. Warner Road

Artist
Otto Rigan

Completion
2000

Material
Stone and Glass

Description: The sculpture is a composite of 10 smaller sculptures that fit together to form an artistic interpretation of the abacus mathematical tool. The sculpture was inspired by a real mathematical problem, and is enjoyed by the owners of the building, Henry & Horne accounting firm.

Funding: This project was funded by the individual developer as a requirement of Tempe's Art in Private Development Ordinance.

Artist biography: Although Rigan was trained as a painter, he has pursued many broad-ranging and cross-disciplinary projects throughout his career. While still in college he completed his first large-scale public commission. In his early 20s he apprenticed to a master architectural glass craftsman. In his late 20s he wrote and photographed four books and lectured widely on their subjects. It wasn't until Rigan was in his early 30s that he began to develop the sculpture for which he is most noted. His interest in the temporal medium of glass and how it manipulates light and the permanence and density of stone, merged into a series of sculptural explorations that continue to this day. Rigan splits his time between making studio-based autonomous works and applying his "way of seeing" to public and corporate spaces. Often the larger commissions merge architectural, landscape and other disciplines as an extension of the Artist's palette. He started an Architectural practice in addition to his other studio activities.

Artist statement: *Abacus* is one of the Artist's *Reconstructions.* *Reconstructions*, like *Columns*, are architecturally inspired. Their method of assembly, and strong repeated pattern mimics the rhythm of Architecture, and construction. Unlike *Columns*, however, *Reconstructions* are more elaborate in their assembly.